

INFANTRY NEWS



THE 1993 INFANTRY CONFERENCE will be held at Fort Benning, Georgia, 27-29 April 1993. Additional information is available from LTC King, DSN 835-3451 or commercial (706) 545-3451.

THE FOLLOWING MANUALS, being prepared by the Infantry School, are scheduled for publication and distribution by May 1993:

FM 7-7J, The Mechanized Infantry Platoon and Squad (Bradley). This manual discusses the tactics, techniques, and procedures for the mechanized infantry platoon and squad equipped with the M2 Bradley fighting

vehicle. Mechanized infantry leaders must know the capabilities of the soldiers and the BFV to develop overwhelming combat power at the decisive place and time. Maneuver, firepower, protection, and leadership combine to form the dynamics of combat power.

FM 90-10-1, An Infantryman's Guide to Combat in Built-Up Areas.

This manual provides the infantryman with guidelines and techniques for fighting against a uniformed enemy in built-up areas who may or may not be separated from the civilian population. Some techniques for dealing with insurgents, guerrillas, and terrorists are included, but FM 7-98 best addresses these issues. The urban growth in all

areas of the world has changed the face of the battlefield. Combat in built-up areas focuses on fighting for and in those cities, towns, and villages.

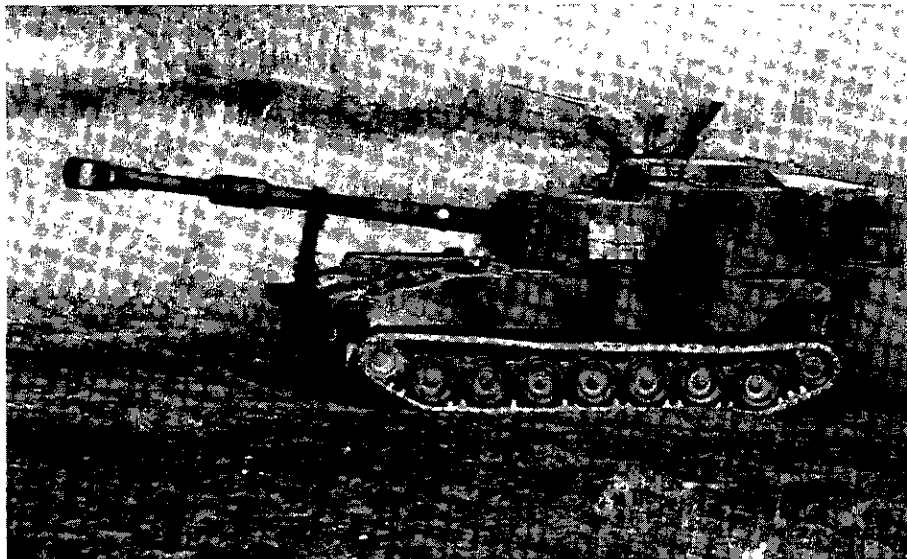
THE NATIONAL INFANTRY Museum is interested in obtaining action combat photographs taken by soldiers during the operations in Grenada, Panama, or the Persian Gulf for its permanent collection. The museum will copy and return the original photographs.

Anyone who would like to share such photographs should contact Mr. Grube at DSN 835-2958, or commercial (706) 545-2958.

THE M109A6 PALADIN 155mm self-propelled howitzer is the latest modification to the M109-series howitzers. Although it looks familiar, its new capabilities offer the combined arms team more responsive artillery fire at longer range.

With previous versions of the self-propelled howitzer, responsiveness was measured in minutes; with the Paladin, it will be measured in seconds. The Paladin can consistently receive, process, and fire at targets within 30 seconds if it is halted and within 60 seconds when it is on the march. As soon as a mission is completed, the howitzer can either move immediately to another firing location or continue the march to support a maneuver force mission.

This improved responsiveness in providing fire support is made possible by an on-board technical fire control and position navigation system, called the Automatic Fire Control System (AFCS). When the Paladin stops, the navigation system tells the ballistic computer the howitzer's location; it is now ready to receive fire missions.



The Paladin's automated capabilities make it twice as survivable as its predecessor, which means twice as many howitzers to continue the fight and 80 percent more missions in support of maneuver forces.

In addition, the Paladin has an improved cannon and a gun mount that extend its range approximately six kilometers. It can now provide accurate

supporting fire for the maneuver force using any munition that is available to all 155mm howitzers. These munitions include illumination, dual-purpose improved conventional munitions (DPICMs), scatterable mines (FASCAM), and high explosives. Paladin can fire assisted projectiles to ranges out to 30 kilometers.

A Paladin platoon has supported the

1st Cavalry Division at the National Training Center (NTC), demonstrating how modern artillery can provide more responsive fire support for the combined arms team. Although one platoon cannot fully exploit the potential of this new system, its ability to "shoot and scoot" will be obvious in such missions as the movement to contact. No matter how far the battlefield is extended, the Paladin will be near the front, poised to provide devastating and responsive fire support.

This newest member of the combined arms team is scheduled for fielding in June 1993.

THE M-40 CHEMICAL MASK is being tested and fielded to replace the M-17 mask. The new mask provides three to five times the protection of the M-17 because of better sealing and the use of silicone rubber instead of butyl rubber for the face piece. The basic M-40 mask comes equipped with a threaded cheek filter mounted on either the left or the right side and an improved water tube attachment.

In 1992 the Army's Test and Experimentation Command (TEX-COM) tested four additional improvements to the M-40:

- Protective eye lens outserts designed to protect the eyes from laser or ballistic damage.
- A silicone hood designed for quick removal.
- A canister system option that eliminates the cheek filter.
- A communications system consisting of a voice amplifier or a microphone for intercom systems previously installed in Army vehicles.

The canister system option, which provides a connection to aircraft oxygen systems and combat vehicle filtration units, is interchangeable with other NATO canisters.

Test results show that the mask is a dramatic improvement over its predecessor, but it still needs some work in other areas. For example, the laser outserts prevented any eye damage from laser-generated range finders used for weapon aiming, but they also prevented

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the soldiers from using a laser-generated reticle for sighting.

Despite small problems, the new amplifier will be a boon to soldiers trying to communicate with each other in a chemical environment.

The Army plans to distribute the M-40 masks to Force Level One units first. Members of the 82d Airborne Division have already been issued the basic mask without the voice and laser outsert modifications. Other installations have also established their units' order requirements.

(Condensed from "M-40 Protective Mask," by Lieutenant Colonel Sidney R. Thurston, The Air Land Sea Bulletin, 30 September 1992, pages 9-10.)

HOT-WEATHER AND DESERT battledress uniforms (BDUs) are scheduled for some design changes in the future.

The uniforms will be made of a blended cotton and nylon ripstop poplin fabric. This is a lighter weight fabric than the current standard cotton and nylon twill. It was selected after extensive testing for appearance, comfort, and durability.

The waist tabs on the coat have been removed and the coat girth has been reduced by three inches. The sleeve cuff has been modified to allow for easier rolling, and the front bellows on the lower pockets have been removed. The only noticeable change made to the trousers was the elimination of the knee pleats. The reinforcing patches for the knees, crotch, and elbows on the hot-weather uniform have been retained and will be added to the desert uniform. Buttons have been retained as closures on all pockets and the trousers fly. Zippers and velcro fasteners were evaluated but were rejected because of reliability, durability, and cost of repair or

replacement. The noise of opening velcro was also unacceptable to test soldiers.

Current procurement plans call for the production of 1.4 million hot-weather trousers and 1.5 million hot-weather coats during Fiscal Year 1993. Contracts for 77,000 desert uniform trousers will be awarded during FY 1993, and contracts for 40,000 coats will be awarded in FY 1994.

There will be no specified change-over date. Uniforms that incorporate the design changes will be issued on an as-needed basis, while uniforms in the current design will continue to be issued until existing stocks have been exhausted.

NIGHT VISION DEVICES and image intensifier tubes will be produced for the Army under a contract that was let in late 1992. The contract is for the production of AN/PVS-7B night vision ground goggles, AN/AVS-6 aviation goggles, spare parts and third-generation spare image intensifier tubes.

Night vision devices allow vision at extremely low light levels. They can be designed to operate in the visible spectral region as well as in the ultraviolet and near infrared.

The delivery of the goggles and tubes is scheduled to begin in December 1993.

NERVE GAS ANTIDOTES that use an auto-injector delivery system will be produced under a recent contract. Auto-injectors are pen-like medical devices that allow a soldier to inject himself with a precise drug dosage safely and quickly.

The contract is the first in a series of innovative programs designed by the Defense Personnel Support Center (DPSC) to assure adequate supplies of critical items in the event of war.

The contract calls for manufacturing nerve gas antidotes, storing serviceable material for expired auto-injectors, managing DPSC's shelf life extension program, and filling new product orders.